

Appl. No.: 10/773,828
Amdt. Dated: ____ December 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed 12/08/06

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 7, with the following amended paragraph:

Briefly, as better illustrated in Figures 1 and Figure 2, the wine barrel 10 includes a rigid frame formed of circular upper and lower channeled U-shaped cross sectional rings 20, the rings 20 having holes 32 for receiving and locating assembled with threaded connecting bars 21 together with threaded tie-bolt 22 and associated locating bushing 23, thus the position and number of holes 32 will establish the number of barrel sides. Within this frame of connecting bars 21 and upper and lower rings 20 are upper and lower wood panels 25, 25a with holes 31 of identical numbers and locations as in the upper and lower rings 20, and wood side panels 26, 26a. As shown more clearly in Figure 9 and explained below, wood panel 26a is wedge-shaped and panels 26 are configured to evenly and abuttingly accept panel 26a under pressure.

Please amend the first sentence of the second paragraph on page 7 as follows:

Connecting bars 21 are attached to U-shaped cross sectional rings 20 through holes 32 and end panels 25a through holes 31 corresponding in number and position with holes in said ring 20 by means of locating bushing 23 and tie-bolts 22.

Please replace the last first full paragraph on page 10, before "What is claimed is:" with the following amended paragraph:

In accordance with the above, there has been shown and described an improved wine barrel assembly having a re-useable rigid frame consisting of upper and lower U-shaped cross sectional rings with locating holes and a plurality of connecting members fitting into the locating holes, and within this frame replaceable end and side wooden panel oak components therein, thereby to create a new and unique barrel wherein after use only the end and side panels have to be reversed or replaced. While the invention has been described in connection with embodiments thereof, it is obvious that various modifications and changes can be made within the spirit and scope of the invention.